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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/622,648	TAKAGI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Courtney Thomas	2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/21/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>12/04/03</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-15 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: ✓
3. **As per claim 1 and dependent claims 4, 6 and 8**, the examiner found no reference in the prior art that disclosed or made obvious a CT imaging method comprising the steps of: a) determining a positional relation between a reference coordinate system of an object and a coordinate system of a CT apparatus and b) imaging the object by the CT apparatus and based on the positional relation, producing bit-map data of a desired portion of the object as recited in independent claim 1.
4. **As per claim 2 and dependent claims 3, 5, 7 and 9**, the examiner found no reference in the prior art that disclosed or made obvious a CT imaging method comprising: a) a coordinate system determination process to determine a positional relation between a reference coordinate system of an object and a coordinate system of a CT apparatus, based on geometric features of contact surfaces and b) a real imaging process to image the object by the CT apparatus and, based on the positional relation, produce tomographic images of a desired portion of the object as recited in independent claim 2.
5. **As per claim 10 and dependent claims 11, 12 and 13**, the examiner found no reference in the prior art that disclosed or made obvious a CT apparatus comprising: a signal processor to process a detection signal from a detector to produce tomographic images of an object; wherein the signal processor has: a coordinate system determination means to, based on geometric

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features of contact surfaces, determine a positional relation between a reference coordinate system of the object and a coordinate system of a turntable, as recited in independent claim 10.

6. As per claim 14 and dependent claim 15, the examiner found no reference in the prior art that disclosed or made obvious a CT imaging service method comprising: a) a step of determining a positional relation between a reference coordinate system of an object and a coordinate system of a CT apparatus based on geometric features of contact surfaces; b) a step of imaging the object with the CT apparatus to produce tomographic images of a desired portion of the object based on the positional relation; and c) a delivery process to provide a customer with the object and the tomographic images of the desired portion as recited in independent claim 14.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. **GB 2,174,880 A to Parish et al.** discloses an apparatus for obtaining a sectional view of an object.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney Thomas whose telephone number is (571) 272-2496. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am - 5 pm).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272 2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Courtney Thomas *CT*
Examiner
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David V. Bruce".

DAVID V. BRUCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER